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FEB 24 2000

Dear Dr. Gibbs:

**CONTRACT NO. DE-AC06-96RL13308 – W375 – SECOND RESPONSE TO  
AUTHORIZATION BASIS MAINTENANCE INSPECTION REPORT AND  
DECLARATION OF INTENT TO REPORT IN ACCORDANCE WITH 10 CFR 820**

- References: 1) CCN 009392, Letter, D. C. Gibbs, DOE/RL, to M. J. Lawrence, BNFL Inc.,  
"Authorization Basis Management Inspection Report, IR-99-007," 00-RU-0114,  
dated December 13, 1999.
- 2) CCN 009268, Letter, A. J. Dobson, BNFL Inc., to D.C. Gibbs, DOE/RL,  
"Response to Authorization Basis Management Inspection Report", dated  
January 25, 2000.
- 3) CCN 011300, Letter, D. C. Gibbs, DOE/RL, to M. J. Bullock, BNFL Inc.,  
"Regulatory Unit (RU) Action Based on BNFL Response to Authorization Basis  
Management Inspection Report, IR-99-007," 00-RU-0221, dated  
February 10, 2000.

This letter is BNFL Inc.'s (BNFL) second formal response to the inspection report and supersedes the first response dated January 25, 2000. It answers the Regulatory Unit's letter of February 10, 2000 by containing additional facts, causes, and corrective actions related to the authorization basis (AB) maintenance inspection findings and by presenting the results of BNFL's review for responsibility under 10 CFR 820, Appendix A.

Authorization Basis Inspection

During the week of October 4-8, 1999, the Regulatory Unit conducted an inspection of the River Protection Project-Waste Treatment Plant's Authorization Basis Management Process. Subsequent to the initial inspection, the Regulatory Unit (RU) performed a follow-up inspection on November 22-23, 1999 to address inconsistencies in documentation regarding revisions to the BNFL Radiation Protection Program, an authorization basis document.

As a result of the two inspections, the RU identified four findings and two weaknesses (Reference 1).

The findings identified are as follows: (1) BNFL failed to establish a process that ensured design-related aspects of the authorization basis were maintained current with the facility design; (2) untrained personnel were performing screening reviews and safety evaluations; (3) BNFL staff were not following procedures; and (4) BNFL revised information in a quality-related record without revising the record, as required.

BNFL prepared and transmitted a response to the inspection report (Reference 2) that was determined by the RU to not fully address the causes, corrective actions, and recurrence controls related to the findings (Reference 3). In its letter, the RU requested that BNFL provide additional written information concerning the facts, causes, and corrective actions taken or planned to promptly correct the findings discussed in the inspection report and to address other concerns as discussed in the February 10, 2000 letter.

A root cause analysis report on Authorization Basis Maintenance Finding IR-99-007-01-FIN was issued on February 2, 2000. This information, along with Root Cause Evaluation results of other RU findings relating to procedural problems were provided to Project Management for their review. Project management reviewed this information in conjunction with other information from internal and external audits of the RPP-WTP, self-assessment findings, QA metrics, and internal analyses of findings.

On February 9, 2000, BNFL and the RU met in a quarterly Partnering Meeting. The root cause analysis and AB maintenance were topics of that meeting. At that time, BNFL reported the results of the root cause analysis of Finding IR-99-007-01-FIN and discussed the corrective actions as part of the broader management review of our overall quality program. BNFL reported to the RU that immediate and planned corrective actions were under way to address the issues with implementation of the QA program. A formal recovery plan is being developed to promptly correct the deficiencies noted by the RU, DOE Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management (RW), BNFL corporate, and our own internal review mechanisms.

At the same meeting, the BNFL Project Manager presented to the RU a five-point immediate action plan for QA program recovery. These actions, along with more detailed and focused corrective actions described in the attached inspection response, are intended to resolve the specific findings noted in the RU's AB inspection report. The five-point immediate action plan is:

- Brief the whole project team on QA issues and priority...include specific instruction on procedural compliance by March 17, 2000.
- Give specific QA training to the management team by March 30, 2000.
- Strengthen QA resources both in the QA department and in the project. (Actions are currently under way to obtain additional, qualified personnel.)
- Assign a senior manager to head up a dedicated team to produce a detailed recovery plan...this will include responsibility, actions, schedules, metrics, and resources to complete. (The dedicated team headed by a senior manager has been formed and is developing the recovery plan).
- Make the recovery plan available to the RU and RW within four weeks (March 8, 2000). Complete the QA Program Recovery Plan by August 1, 2000.

In the attached Response to Findings, BNFL has addressed remedial (near-term) actions for the specific deficiencies noted in the findings, and has addressed the corrective actions for each root cause of the findings in order to preclude recurrence. Other clarifications are made to address the concerns noted by the RU in the February 10 letter.

Reportability in Accordance with 10 CFR 820

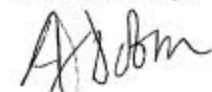
BNFL has determined that the conditions described in the Authorization Basis inspection findings represent a noncompliance with DOE nuclear safety requirements and that these conditions are reportable under 10 CFR Part 820, Appendix A. BNFL will report this condition to the Noncompliance Tracking System in accordance with the guidance of the DOE Office of Enforcement and Investigation.

Corrective Action Meeting

BNFL recognizes the seriousness of the AB maintenance issues and overall quality program issues. BNFL believes that the actions described in the attached Response to Findings, in conjunction with the actions described above, will adequately address the RU Inspection Findings on Authorization Basis Maintenance. BNFL looks forward to the Corrective Action Meeting with the RU on March 1, 2000 to discuss the AB inspection findings and the causes and corrective actions noted in this correspondence and attachment.

If you have any questions or if we can be of further assistance, please call Dennis Klein at 371-4867 or Don Edwards at 371-4871.

Yours sincerely,



A. J. Dobson  
Manager, Operations and Safety  
BNFL Inc.

MAP/jca

Attachment: Response to Findings and Weaknesses, IR-99-007

cc:

Barr, R. w/a	DOE/RL	A4-70
Barrett, M.K. w/o	DOE/ORP	H6-60
Brown, N. w/a	DOE/ORP	H6-60
Bullock, M.J. w/a	BNFL Inc.	A116
Dobson, A. J. w/a	BNFL Inc.	A117
Edwards, D. W. w/a	BNFL Inc.	B140